

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, and carrying over to page 9, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The preferred manufacturing method for the ear devices described individually below rests on 3D digitizing the shape of an individual's particular application area for the ear device and then realizing the ear device or the shell thereof by an additive built-up process. Additive built-up processes are also known as "rapid prototyping". Reference3s to such additive built-up processes are already used in rapid prototyping may be found at/in

- <http://ltk.hut.fi/~koukka/RP/rptree.html> (1) and
- Wohler's Report 2000, Rapid Prototyping & Tool State of the industry (2)

Out of the group of presently known additive built-up processes for rapid prototyping laser sintering, laser-or stereolithography or the thermojet process are especially applicable to construe ear devices or their shells, thereby especially the embodiments thereof as described below. The specifications of these preferred additive built-up processes shall be discussed now only in a brief, summarizing manner:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 5, and

carrying over to page 11, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

• **Thermojet Processing:** The contour formation according to the sectional layers of the ear device or of its shell are implemented similarly to an ink jet printer by deposition of liquid according to the digitized 3D shape data, especially of the individual application area. Thereafter the deposited sectional "drawing" is solidified. Again, following the principle of additive build-up, layer after layer is deposited so as to finally build up the ear device or its shell. The following documentation is referred to regarding other additive built-up processes and regarding the above mentioned preferred ones:

- http://www.padttinc.com/serv_rpm_sls.html (3)
- "Selective Laser Sintering (SLS) of Ceramics",
Muskesh Agarwala et al., presented at the Solid Freeform
Fabrication Symposium, Austin, TX August 1999,
- http://www.caip.rutgers.edu/RP_Library/process.html (5)
- <http://www.biba.uni-bremen.de/groups/rp/lom.html> or
- http://www.biba.uni-bremen.de/groups/rp/rp_intro.html (6)
- Donald Klosterman et al., "Direct Fabrication of Polymer
Composite Structures with Curved LOM", Solid Freeform
Fabrication Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, August
1999, (7)
- <http://lff.me.utexas.edu/sls/html> (8)
- http://www.padttinc.com/srv_rpm_sla.html (9)

- <http://www.cs.hut.fi/~ado/rp/rp.html> (10)

Principally the additive built-up processes always deposit a thin layer of material on a surface, be it as a full surface as in the case in laser sintering or stereo lithography, be it already as a contour of a sectional layer of the ear device or of its shell under construction. Thereupon the desired sectional shape is stabilized, i.e. solidified.